

DMV owes walkers hit by blind driver

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP) — A jury ordered the California Department of Motor Vehicles to pay \$4.1 million to three people who were struck in a crosswalk by a driver who was legally blind.

The Orange County Superior Court jury previously found the DMV negligent for granting a driver's license to George Lizarralde, 31, of La Brea.

Lizarralde was rejected three times, but received the license on his fourth try in 1985 even though he flunked the vision test. His license was renewed in 1990.

The jury deliberated for two days before announcing its decision Friday. Lizarralde was dropped from the suit earlier this month when jurors decided the state was liable.

The award pleased Deborah Ann Mohr, 32, of Whittier, who was among the injured in the Aug. 4, 1991, accident. She suffered brain damage and walks with a cane.

"I would give up every penny to be able to walk normal again, to have my memory back again, and to have things back to normal," she said. "I hope this makes the DMV more responsible about giving out licenses."

Mohr, who runs a La Habra photo-retouching business, was awarded \$3.5 million for pain and suffering, lost earnings and medical expenses. Her then-fiance, Brian Barber, was awarded \$494,690 and his son \$153,939.

The award will be appealed, said Bill Madison, a DMV spokesman in Sacramento.

"We don't think that we are responsible for the accident," Madison said. "We don't just issue licenses to people without testing them appropriately."

State Deputy Attorney General Barbara Annette Noble argued that the accident occurred when Lizarralde took his eyes off the road to pick up a cassette player and wasn't caused by his poor vision.

Complaint of alleged lesbian harassment ignites complaint

BEND (AP) — A complaint about alleged sexual harassment by a U.S. Forest Service worker has led to threats against the former employee who filed the complaint and her union representative.

Karin McGuire, who has accused the agency of ignoring sexual harassment by a lesbian co-worker, was threatened with arrest Thursday when she went to the office of union representative Annette Trythall.

The Forest Service claims McGuire is not a union member and ordered her out of the Ochoco National Forest headquarters. McGuire refused and officials backed off.

Trythall, who refused orders to eject McGuire, was threatened with disciplinary action.

On Friday, the phone and computer in Trythall's office

were disconnected shortly after the pair returned to continue work on McGuire's grievance, Trythall said.

"She is not authorized to use office time or government facilities in representing Ms. McGuire," said Ochoco spokesman Norm Hesseldahl. "So to prevent misuse of that equipment, we disabled her."

The union claims McGuire is a union member and is challenging the agency.

McGuire said the experience left her shaken.

"I'm just shattered right now," she said. "This just isn't fair. This grievance is right."

McGuire claims she was forced to quit her job at the Redmond Air Center last year because the Forest Service failed to stop the co-worker from sexually harassing her.



What's the worst thing about being a student?

"Having to graduate."



MATT KOSANKE
philosophy, junior

"I guess not being able to sleep in."



SUMMER GOODWIN
political science, freshman

"Having to deal with the administrative part of school."



SARAH GILLMAN
landscape architecture, graduate

"Not being able to live in the Bahamas."



JEN DAVIS
english, senior

"Probably having no money."



CHRIS PENTTILA
journalism, graduate

"Living in an artificial world."



SEAN BOYLE
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